



TRANSFORMERS NORTH

Hi everyone, and a very warm
welcome to the Autumn 2017
Transformers North newsletter!



Autumn 2017
Issue #2



It's been a busy Autumn period for all of us here at Transformers North & what a brilliant time we've had! We've made new friends, reunited with old friends, learnt new skills & had the opportunity to participate in some fantastic projects.

Read on to find out what we've been up to this Autumn; including our collaboration with fellow social enterprise Clem's Garden, how we uncovered a path hidden for over 30 years, constructed a willow dome, and used pallets in a festive way for a fabulous project involving some Dewsbury schools!

Don't forget to check out our website and Facebook page for updates of all our adventures:

www.transformersnorth.co.uk

www.facebook.com/TransformersNorth.

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ISSUE



Clem's Garden collaboration

In November, we got the opportunity to collaborate with a fellow social enterprise (the brilliant Clem's Garden* in Huddersfield) when we received a request for help to shift a whole lot of topsoil and compost.

Of course, we cheerfully accepted & on a beautiful Autumn day we embarked upon our task. The topsoil & compost required moving to a raised bed (but not just any raised bed ... probably the longest



raised bed in West Yorkshire!) as plans to get all bulbs safely in place prior to fast approaching cold weather & frosts required a jump start. It was hard work & quite an ambitious task to get the bed filled in time, but here at Transformers North we love a challenge and our gang displayed outstanding teamwork to not only wheel-barrow tonnes of topsoil and compost to fill the bed, but also have time to plant thousands of narcissi bulbs too! We had a brilliant day; made new friends (both human and feline!); enjoyed fab hospitality (including homemade cakes ... which went down a treat!) and it was fantastic to have the chance to work alongside a like-minded social enterprise.



Hopefully we'll be able to unite & do it all again sometime in the future.

*Clem's Garden offers the chance for over 50s with no family to come together to share their care & skills growing & selling flowers to benefit local charities & community projects..



Revealing a hidden path

In September, we answered a request from St John's Church in Dewsbury Moor to help tidy their grounds; including the exciting task of uncovering a path hidden for 30+ years!



The path was almost entirely concealed under grass, making access tricky in certain conditions. Once our team got stuck in, they had great fun loosening & rolling the turf up like a carpet to unveil the walkway. It was a striking transformation all accomplished in true Transformers North style ... in double-quick time & with a whole lot of fun & laughter! We think you'll agree looking at the before & after photo that not only does it look

great but also serves to improve access to some of the graves. We even recycled the turf by using it to fill some sunken areas of ground!



Willow weaving & Christmas preparations

In October, our friends at Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury asked if we could reinvigorate an unruly, overgrown willow dome (to be adorned in sparkly lights for their Christmas event in December!). Well, we gladly accepted the challenge; a fantastic opportunity to learn a new skill & add willow weaving to our ever expanding list of collective talents!



We also got a request for our assistance with a fantastic project initiated by the Friends of Crow Nest Park. We were tasked with cutting pallets into Christmas tree shapes to be distributed amongst local schools for the children to decorate & display in the park



at the December Christmas event; Dewsbury MP Paula Sherriff will be judging & awarding a prize for her favourite one!

We also took the chance to wear our creative hats in preparation for our stall at the Christmas event; our gang hand-crafted some wonderful yuletide items!

It certainly took some serious coaxing but we all worked & weaved until we ultimately tamed it & for our first ever willow weaving project we're all pretty chuffed with how it turned out!

We think it's going to look beautiful when it's all lit up for Christmas!



In November, we got to team up again with our old pals the Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group (RRAG) to tackle the second phase of their management plan for the bird sanctuary area of Dewsbury Country Park.

The last time we joined forces was in March (just prior to bird nesting season) & now that our feathered friends have vacated the area we were back to lend our help. Our task was to clear trees & overhanging branches adjacent to paths & walkways to ensure better definition of pathways & open up the canopy; providing a much lighter, clearer route to promote a safer environment & hopefully discourage anti-social behaviour.

We had a brilliant day in the sun (which we take everywhere with us!) and it was so great to see all our friends at RRAG again.

We're already looking forward to the next time we get together!

Woodland management



Crow Nest Park Green Flag festivities!

Back in September we were invited to the Green Flag raising ceremony at Crow Nest Park in Dewsbury. It's the 7th consecutive year they've received this prestigious award & we wouldn't have missed it for the world!

We got there early to help set up for the celebrations before the guests arrived. Dewsbury MP Paula Sherriff was on hand to perform the ceremony; giving a speech about her love for the park & raising the flag.



It was a fantastic occasion; Paula gave us a special mention in her speech for all the work we've done at Crow Nest Park & we're immensely delighted & proud to have played our part in helping them achieve their deserved success.

*It's been a wonderful Autumn period; we're so proud of all the Transformers North family & everything they achieve. Thanks for taking the time to read about our adventures :-)
We'll see you all again for the winter newsletter.*

If you have any queries, or for more information:

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